

FISCAL NOTE

SB 2126 - HB 2849

February 14, 2002

SUMMARY OF BILL: Enacts The State Parks Management and Preservation Act of 2002.

- Creates a 13-member commission, which will serve as an independent and separate administrative board for Tennessee's state parks.
- Creates a State Parks Agency with an executive director appointed by the state parks commission and serving at the commission's pleasure.
- Creates a State Parks Fund made up all moneys sent to the state treasury representing payments of fees, fines and forfeitures resulting from state park law violations.
- Requires 6% of revenues raised from fees charged at state park facilities to be allocated at the end of each quarter to, and used for maintenance of state park facilities, including furniture, fixtures and equipment.
- Authorizes the State Parks Agency to construct and maintain sites at each park where persons can donate funds solely for use by the state parks. The agency will also recommend other sources of revenue to the Commission.
- State appropriations to state parks will be no less than the appropriation provided to state parks in fiscal year 1997-98. The commissioner shall allocate such appropriations beginning July 1, 2003 for each of the next five fiscal years.
- Directs the Commissioner of Finance and Administration to transfer all appropriations, personnel, equipment and other sources allocated to the Division of State Parks to the State Park Agency for the fiscal year 2001-2002.
- Develops and formulates a long-range plan, referred to as a Master Plan to recognize and take into account the objectives of the State Outdoor Recreation Plan, created under T.C.A. Title 11, Chapter 9.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - Less Than \$100,000

Other Fiscal Impact: Transfers funding estimated at \$58,473,000, of which \$26,648,900 are state appropriations and \$31,824,100 are revenues received from users of park facilities, from the Department of Environment and Conservation to the newly created Tennessee State Parks Agency. Transfers all positions, equipment and facilities to the new agency.

Estimate assumptions:

- An increase in state expenditures for travel reimbursement for members of the commission and other expenditures relating to establishing a separate agency to manage state parks.
- Positions transferred will be sufficient to staff the new agency.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director

SB 2126 - HB 2849